

arrogate unto ourselves to bind others by our consciences. "Oh! consistency thou art the jewel."

While I regard the Brethren church better than any other, I do not think that every important Gospel truth is understood among us as it should be, hence advocate a more open medium of exchange of thought than we have had in the past.

HOLSINGERISMS.

H. R. H.

It is Sunday evening, June 9. Have just returned from San Jose, where with brother Jacob B. Metsger, formerly of Indiana, I heard Miss Annie Shaw preach an excellent sermon, from the words; "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Acts 26:19. I am glad I never stood in the way of women preaching, and that I belong to a church that assists them in doing so.

Two weeks ago to-day, on my sixty-second birthday, I baptized a young lady who had been taught the truth at Tiosa, Ind. She then went on her way rejoicing.

EVANGELIST No. 21, brought us sad news: The death of brethren Henry and Daniel Cober. We knew them both very well. The widowed sisters and bereaved children have our sympathies. Brother Herrington's afflictions also grieve me, and I do hope and pray he will recover.

CHERRIES.

A poor old woman was taken with a charitable excursion to the coast. When she had taken her first view of the mighty ocean she remarked: "Well, now, this is the first time I ever saw plenty of anything." So I can say: This is the first time I ever saw plenty of cherries. Brother Jacob Miller (formerly of Tiosa, Ind.) has four acres in cherries. He was offered \$1200 for the fruit on the trees. He preferred to pack and ship them himself. Wife and I are here to help work at fruit during the season. I now make boxes and she packs cherries. We like the work and the cherries. The boxes are nine inches wide and ten cherries fill a row, and of the larger ones, only nine will go in a line. We have already shipped nine tons and will have nearly as many more.

Getting down to them. After the men had stripped the trees, in a business way, I got down on my knees, close to the trunks, and looking upward, I discovered the finest, fattest, most luscious cherries hidden under the heavy foliage. The boys had overlooked them. Sure enough, I thought. There are many good things which we can best find while we are on our knees.

BALSBAUGH'S GOSPEL.

I am glad Brother Brown and the edi-

tor have taken the kinks out of Balsbaugh's "Gospel" article. Some months ago I received a communication from brother C. H. B., intended to be forwarded to the EVANGELIST. In the article he associated ordinances with customs in a way which I could not endorse. So I returned it with my criticisms. Later I received another letter from him in which he makes it "Ordinance and costume," and asks to have the piece published, but before I could reply, the article referred to appeared in the EVANGELIST. I presume Brother Gnagey did not critically read the communication before handing it to the printer, as I did more than one production from C. H. B., knowing the literary part to be all right, and generally everything else; but since the reformation it is no longer safe to do so. Why he should be so persistent in getting the assertion into print is more than I can understand. Knowing that customs are nothing, and that costume is nothing, I could not offer the second article for publication, and being satisfied with the criticisms of the brethren referred to, I only ask that such heresy be excluded from the columns of our paper in the future.

UNION.

Oh yes, put me down on the side of union with an if or two, Brother Moomaw. First. If it can be done by consolidation. I'll never "go back." It is not my way of moving. I'm still progressive. That implies an onward and upward course. I believe it was conceded during the division that the progressive element was the engine of the Dunkard train. The Old Order Brethren cut themselves loose and side tracked, and as far as I know they are still there. The Conservatives uncoupled and fell back a few stations. With greatly improved machinery and with increased capital they have now almost caught up, and I can say with all my heart, hook on brethren, hook on.

My second *if* can best be explained by using another figure: If we can love each other enough to dwell together in peace and harmony. I am in favor of long and warm courtships before marriage. No flirting, but genuine love-making. While I would rejoice if a consolidation could be effected in the right way to-morrow, under existing circumstances and conditions I would consider it very unwise and injudicious, yes, even disastrous to have the two bodies in one communion. It would simply be a policy match. But I am in favor of working hard to bring about the proper conditions of union: namely, love and harmony. Sometimes people get along better before uniting than afterwards. You have heard of the couple who

had a little spat between them. The husband remarked: "It is a shame that we should quarrel thus; see the cat and dog, how peacefully they lie together." She retorted; "Yes, but tie them together, and then see how they will agree." I have a memory. It isn't as good as it was twenty-five years ago; but it takes me back pretty accurately into the seventies and eighties, and I don't want it any more real than recollection makes it. Yes, I also remember Phil. 3:13, and will endeavor to observe especially the "reaching forth."

I want to see more love-making and love-manifesting between individual members and congregations of the two denominations, before I shall have much hope of consolidation. When the German Baptist Brethren recognize our baptisms; when they will permit our good members to commune at their feasts, and suffer theirs to participate with us without molestation; when adjoining congregations of the two denominations will join on special occasions like Thanksgiving days, Easter and Christmasservices; when their ministers will exchange pulpits and unite in holding revival meetings and divide the spoils without quarreling over it; when the *Gospel Messenger* and the BRETHREN EVANGELIST will copy each other's best articles and rejoice in each other's prosperity; when they will accept our good members on certificate and dismiss theirs to us; in short, when the two denominations will be so nearly alike, that we ourselves hardly know one from the other, then, if I am still in this sublunary sphere, I shall become very enthusiastic over the prospects for consolidation. Until then, let us work and pray for that desirable condition of things, meanwhile, not forgetting our highest mission: The salvation of sinners.

It appears to me that one of my communications must have been lost. I think I had announced that we had abandoned our eastern tour for this season, on account of my weak voice and impaired sense of hearing, and had thanked the Philadelphia church, as well as individual brethren, for kindly invitations, but I do not find it in any of the papers at hand. Let this be such announcement. I had fondly hoped to attend the Ashland Conference this fall, but I shall not be able to do so. I also have a longing desire to visit once more the field of my labor when I could at least *try* to work. That too, I may not attain, and I am preparing for the disappointment. My general health is better, if only my voice and hearing were not so shattered. My address now is, Berryessa, Calif. We are almost in the suburbs of San Jose.